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EXAMINER

CAPUTO, LISA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,047

Applicant(s)

NAKAZONO, KYOU

Examiner

Lisa M Caputo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:

Regarding Fig. 2: Replace reference number 29 "Contoroller" with --Controller--.

Regarding Fig. 4: Replace reference number step S103 "Word/Phrase
Preparing Process" with --Word/Phrase Preparing Process--.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding page 10, lines 14-15: Replace "magnetic storage unit 271" and "thermal storage unit 273" with --magnetic recording unit 271-- and --thermal recording unit 273--, respectively in order to be consistent with Figure 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,966, from hereinafter "Kii") in view of Taylor (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,232).

Kii teaches an electronic communication system and recording medium. Kii discloses that FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing Embodiment 1 of the electronic communication system of the invention. The client apparatus 100 is equipped with: a main controller 101 for controlling an operation of each part and a transfer of data between the parts; input device 102 such as a mouse, keyboard, etc.; display device 103 including a display and a speaker as output devices; a display controller 104 for controlling the data output to the display device 103; a sentence composition data table 107 (ref. FIG. 4) storing sentence composition data for composing a sentence by obtaining the necessary information from various data bases of a server apparatus 200 to be described later, for the purpose of giving an unexpected feeling and a sense of affinity with the communication system to the user and arousing the user's interest and will for participation in the communication; a DB interpretation part 106 for preparing a sentence including personal contents of the user by referring to the sentence composition data table 107; and a network controller 105 for controlling communication procedures with the network. The client apparatus 100 is connected with the server apparatus 200 through the network. FIG. 2 is a detailed block diagram of the DB interpretation part 106. It comprises a keyword selection part 1061 for selecting items of attribute information related with the user which becomes a keyword for determining

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a composition pattern of the sentence to be composed, in order or at random on each occasion of preparing the sentence, for example, and a sentence composition part 1062 for composing the sentence by incorporating the personal information of the user in the composition pattern of the sentence suited to the keyword selected by the keyword selection part 1061 on referring to the sentence composition data table 107. The server apparatus 200 comprises a main controller 201 for controlling an operation of each part and a transfer of data between the parts, a news server 202 for storing and managing the substantial information of the news, a mail server 203 for memorizing and managing the substantial information of the mail, and a network controller 204 for controlling the communication procedures with the network. The server apparatus 200 further comprises a user information DB (data base) 205 which stores user attribute information such as an ID, name, belonging group, birthday, hobby, sex (age), and the like of the user registered in advance by the user, a group information DB 206 which stores user attribute information such as information of the activities of the group to which the user belongs (time/date and kind of event), and a general information DB 207 which stores information by dates which varies in time such as a weather in the user's residing place obtained from the outside periodically. FIG. 3 is a conceptual view of the data bases 205, 206, and 207 in Embodiment 1 of the server apparatus 200. FIG. 4 is a conceptual view of the sentence composition data table 107 in Embodiment 1. A sentence composition pattern table stores sentence composition patterns for composing the sentence incorporated with the user's attribute information by items of the attribute information which becomes the keyword for the sentence to be composed. A keyword

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attribute table stores the items of the attribute information (date, weather, sex, etc.) necessary for composing the sentence suited for the contents of the keyword. A sentence composition rule table stores the words and sentences suited to the attribute information such as date, sex, etc. for the case of not incorporating the attribute information without a change in the sentence pattern. Next, the operation of Embodiment 1 taking an example of the case where the message is displayed immediately after the logging in the communication system from the client apparatus by the user, will be explained on the basis of the flow charts of FIGS. 5 and 6 and the drawing to show an example of the screen display of FIG. 7. When the user logs in to the communication system by inputting the user ID, password, etc. through the input device 102 of the client apparatus 100 (Step S1), the user ID is transmitted to the network controller 204 of the server apparatus 200 from the network controller 105 of the client apparatus 100. The server apparatus 200 searches the user information DB 205 using the received user ID as a key (Step S2). Next, by using the name of the group to which the user belongs as a key, the server apparatus 200 searches the group information DB 206, and obtains the group information such as the date, kind, etc. of the event of the group to which the user belongs (Step S3). The server apparatus 200 further searches the general information DB 207 by using the information at a predetermined time such as the date of the event as a key, and obtains the general information such as a weather (Step S4). The server apparatus 200 transmits the obtained information to the client apparatus 100. The DB interpretation part 106 of the client apparatus 100 analyzes the transmitted information by referring to the sentence

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composition table 107 and processes the sentence of the message which is to be displayed (Step S5). The DB interpretation part 106 selects any of the items of the attribute information according to the predetermined order or at random as a keyword for the message to be prepared (Step S51), and obtains the item of the attribute information related with the selected keyword from the keyword attribute table and obtains the attribute information of the corresponding item (Step S52) (accumulated information as recited in claim 7 of the instant application). For example, in case "Event 1" is selected as a keyword, the items of "date" (Attribute 1) and "weather" (Attribute 2) are obtained from the keyword attribute table. Using these items as keys, the DB interpretation part 106 obtains the date and kind of the Event 1 in the group information DB 206 and the weather information at the date of the event in the general information DB 207. Next, the DB interpretation part 106 obtains the sentence pattern from the sentence composition pattern table according to the selected keyword (Step S53) and composes the sentence by incorporating the attribute information (Step S54). In this case, depending on the item of the attribute information, the DB interpretation part 106 refers to the sentence composition rule table to obtain other words or another sentence corresponding to the attribute information and incorporate the obtained words or sentence in the sentence composition pattern. For example, in case of "date", depending on the difference between the date of today and the date of the event, the words "today", "tomorrow" and "day after tomorrow" are incorporated in the sentence composition pattern in place of the date per se. The DB interpretation part 106 transfers the prepared sentence data to the display controller 104, and the display controller 104

displays the message data as shown in FIG. 7 on the display screen as the display device 103 (Step S6). In Embodiment 1, there is given an example where the DB interpretation part 106 and the sentence composition data table 107 are provided on the client apparatus 100, but they may be provided on the server apparatus 200.

Next is Embodiment 2. FIG. 8 is a block diagram of Embodiment 2 of the electronic communication system of the invention. The same or corresponding parts to Embodiment 1 of FIG. 1 are indicated with the same marks and the explanation thereon is omitted. The server apparatus 200 of this embodiment comprises a user information DB 205 similar to that of Embodiment 1, a news information DB 208 which stores by news IDs miniature image data (or storage address thereof) of the news to be outputted to the display device 103 of the client apparatus 100 as identification information for identifying the news substance stored in the news server 202 and the attribute information of the news comprising the news topics, number of readers, and level of reputation, and a mail information DB 209 which stores by mail IDs the date of arrival, sender, miniature image data (or storage address thereof) of the mail to be outputted to the display device 103 of the client apparatus 100 as the identification information for identifying the mail substance which is stored in the mail server 203. FIG. 9 is a conceptual view of the data bases 205, 208, and 209 in Embodiment 2. The interpretation part 106 of the client apparatus 100 obtains from the news information DB 208 and mail information DB 209 the miniature image data of the news and mail corresponding to the user's attribute information such as a hobby stored in the user information DB 205, adds message data, for example, and transfers it to the display

controller 104, to have the display device 103 display the miniature image and, if there is message data, the message. The main controller 101 of the client apparatus 100 stores the display position and size of the displayed miniature image, news ID, and mail ID, and transmits to the server apparatus 200 the news ID or mail ID corresponding to the miniature image selected by the user by a click operation or the like out of the data displayed on the display device 103 to obtain the news or mail corresponding to the selected miniature image from the news server part 202 or mail server 203 of the server apparatus 200, and displays the news or mail on the display of the display device 103. Next, the operation of Embodiment 2 will be explained on the basis of the flow chart of FIG. 10 and the example of the screen display of FIG. 11, taking an example of the case where the miniature image is displayed immediately after the user logged in the communication system from the client apparatus. When the user inputs the user ID, password, etc. from the input device 102 of the client apparatus 100 and logs in the communication system (Step S11), the user ID is transmitted to the network controller 204 of the server apparatus 200 from the network controller 105 of the client apparatus 100. The server apparatus 200 searches the user information DB 205 using the received user ID as a key and obtains the attribute information such as a hobby, for example, which shows the degree of the user's interest in the information (Step S12). Next, the server apparatus 200 obtains the miniature image data of the news e.g., relating to the hobby, in which the user has a high interest from the news information DB 208, and the mail from a friend or the newly arrived mail, for example, in which the user has a high interest from the mail information DB (Step S12, S13). The server

apparatus 200 transmits the obtained information to the client apparatus 100. The DB interpretation part 106 of the client apparatus 100 processes the display information such as to determine the display position of the transmitted miniature image and to add the message data (Step S14). The main controller 101 stores the display position and size of the miniature image to be displayed, news ID or mail ID (Step S15), and transfers the display information to the display controller 104. The display controller 104 displays the display information on the display screen of the display device 103 as shown in FIG. 11 (Step S16). Further, when the user selects the miniature image displayed as in FIG. 11 by clicking, for example, the main controller 101 of the client apparatus 100 judges which is the selected miniature image and transmits the news ID or mail ID corresponding to the selected miniature image to the server apparatus 200. The main controller 201 of the server apparatus 200 refers to the news information DB 208 or mail information DB 209 to fetch the news or mail corresponding to the selected miniature image from the news server 202 or the mail server 203 and transmit the fetched news or mail to the client apparatus 100. In the above embodiment, explanation is given on the client/server type electronic communication system, but the invention is also applicable to the stand-alone type electronic communication system. The DB interpretation part 106 may be provided on the server apparatus 200. FIG. 12 is a schematic view of the hardware constitution for realizing the system of the invention. This hardware comprises a personal computer 81 as a processing apparatus, a display 82 for displaying the character data, and a keyboard 83 and mouse 84 as input devices. The personal computer 81 loads the program for carrying out the

processing as described above from the recording medium such as a portable type recording medium 85 such as a magnetic disk, CD-ROM or the like, a communication line memory 86 which can communicate a program with the personal computer 81 by wire or wireless provided at the center, or a processor side memory 87 like a RAM or hard disk provided on the personal computer 81. As this invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit of essential characteristics thereof, the present embodiment is therefore illustrative and not restrictive, since the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims rather than by the description preceding them, and all changes that fall within metes and bounds of the claims, or equivalence of such metes and bounds thereof are therefore intended to be embraced by the claims (see Figures 1-12, col 2 line 49 to col 6 line 31). Hence, Kii teaches a message system that comprises an inherent computer system that creates a message corresponding to attributes of a member in a predetermined system and displays it to a user.

Regarding claims 1, 7-8, and 11-12, Kii fails to teach that the message is written onto a card and read from a card.

Taylor teaches a multi-application data card. Taylor discloses that FIG. 1 shows a multi-application data card 10 conveniently formed of plastic and containing solid-state circuitry represented schematically at 12 and the name of the authorized card holder. The card 10 is a smart card, and the solid-state circuitry 12 includes a microprocessor and memory chips embedded within the card. The memory chips hold the equivalent of several typewritten pages of information. An example of some of the data recorded on the card is shown in FIG. 1. Thus a number of applications, including American

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Express, Visa, Master Charge, Discovery, various oil companies, various hotels, and various airlines, may be recorded together with a PIN (personal identification number), the account number, expiration date, account (or access or vendor) code, and various records for each of the separate accounts, plus miscellaneous data. The account, access or vendor code is a special code of each vendor which lets that vendor alone change data on the vendor's portion of the card. The records column includes, for example, frequency data, bonus point tie-ins with multiple vendors, etc. The miscellaneous column is for whatever additional data a particular vendor may wish to record. In FIG. 1, the card 10 may have information printed or embossed, on its face in addition to the name of the card holder. For example, this information may include the address and possibly other information such as the social security number and telephone number of the card holder. The same information can alternatively or additionally be provided in a memory chip embedded in the card 10. This information is available to all: the card holder herself, of course, as well as any vendor to whom the card is presented. Thus this information, without access to the additional information represented in FIG. 1, is sufficient for many purposes, such as awarding coupons to consumers who indicate certain preferences via interactive T.V. FIG. 2 shows the smart card 10 interacting with a card reader/writer 14 (hereinafter referred to as a card reader for short). The card reader 14 is capable of reading not only the smart card 10, which is inserted into a slot 16, but also a conventional magnetic-stripe card 18, which is inserted into a slot 20. The card reader is capable of writing on a cooperating smart card to update various records thereon. In the case of a magnetic-stripe card, the updating of

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the records is done at a remote location, as explained below. As FIG. 2A shows, it is possible to combine the smart card 10 and magnetic-stripe card 18 into a single multi-application card 22 having a magnetic stripe 19 for reading by a card reader compatible with a magnetic-stripe card and solid-state circuitry 12 for reading by a card reader compatible with a smart card. FIG. 2B shows the reverse side of the card shown in FIG. 2A, including a signature space S. The card reader may combine both reading functions in a single unit, as illustrated in FIG. 2, or separate card readers may be provided, one for reading magnetic-stripe cards and another for reading smart cards. Other examples, which need not be illustrated in the drawing, include duty-free shops, cruise lines, traveller's checks, ticketing, T.V. cable/satellite box (interactive), health care, telephone, foreign currency applications, vending machines, keys, driver's license, insurance data, passport, voice, fingerprint, signature and supermarkets. Not only credit transactions but also debit transactions and non-financial transactions are within the scope of the invention. In any case, the card reader includes first data port means enabling the holder of the card to select a particular application such as American Express, Visa, etc. The first data port means includes for example a keypad 24 by which the holder of the card selects the desired application. In accordance with the invention, at least three memory banks or storage areas are formed for storing and updating data relating respectively to at least one authorized holder of the card and at least two authorized applications of the card. If the card is a smart card, the memory is located at least in part on the card. On the other hand, if the card is a magnetic-stripe card, the memory is located at least in part remotely from the reader and connected thereto by a data link. In

FIG. 2, the reader 14 is connected by a data link represented schematically at 26 to a remote location 28 including data base processing apparatus 30. The processing apparatus 30 can include a mainframe computer and peripheral equipment for receiving and processing information not only from the reader 14 but from numerous similar readers at various locations (see Figures 1-2, col 3 line 47 to col 4 line 64). Hence, Taylor teaches a magnetic stripe card that is able to be read and updated.

In view of the teaching of Taylor it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the information in a magnetic stripe card since a magnetic stripe card is a well-established and efficient means for storing, reading, and updating data.

Regarding claims 2-3, Kii discloses that FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing Embodiment 1 of the electronic communication system of the invention. The client apparatus 100 is equipped with: a main controller 101 for controlling an operation of each part and a transfer of data between the parts; input device 102 such as a mouse, keyboard, etc.; display device 103 including a display and a speaker as output devices; a display controller 104 for controlling the data output to the display device 103; a sentence composition data table 107 (ref. FIG. 4) storing sentence composition data for composing a sentence by obtaining the necessary information from various data bases of a server apparatus 200 to be described later, for the purpose of giving an unexpected feeling and a sense of affinity with the communication system to the user and arousing the user's interest and will for participation in the communication; a DB interpretation part 106 for preparing a sentence including personal contents of the user by referring to

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the sentence composition data table 107; and a network controller 105 for controlling communication procedures with the network. The client apparatus 100 is connected with the server apparatus 200 through the network (see Figure 1, col 2 line 49 to col 3 line 3). The DB interpretation part 106 selects any of the items of the attribute information according to the predetermined order or at random as a keyword for the message to be prepared (Step S51), and obtains the item of the attribute information related with the selected keyword from the keyword attribute table and obtains the attribute information of the corresponding item (Step S52). For example, in case "Event 1" is selected as a keyword, the items of "date" (Attribute 1) and "weather" (Attribute 2) are obtained from the keyword attribute table. Using these items as keys, the DB interpretation part 106 obtains the date and kind of the Event 1 in the group information DB 206 and the weather information at the date of the event in the general information DB 207. Next, the DB interpretation part 106 obtains the sentence pattern from the sentence composition pattern table according to the selected keyword (Step S53) and composes the sentence by incorporating the attribute information (Step S54) (see Figures 5-7, col 4, lines 14-32). Hence Kii teaches that the memory of the system contains a word/phrase table for storing words and phrases to create the message.

Regarding claims 4-6, Kii teaches The server apparatus 200 further comprises a user information DB (data base) 205 which stores user attribute information such as an ID, name, belonging group, birthday, hobby, sex (age), and the like of the user registered in advance by the user, a group information DB 206 which stores user attribute information such as information of the activities of the group to which the user

belongs (time/date and kind of event), and a general information DB 207 which stores information by dates which varies in time such as a weather in the user's residing place obtained from the outside periodically. FIG. 3 is a conceptual view of the data bases 205, 206, and 207 in Embodiment 1 of the server apparatus 200 (see Figure 3, col 3, lines 24-36). Hence, Kii teaches the creation of a database table that corresponds to a change in external factor, including date or weather.

Regarding claim 9, Kii discloses that the DB interpretation part 106 of the client apparatus 100 processes the display information such as to determine the display position of the transmitted miniature image and to add the message data (Step S14). The main controller 101 stores the display position and size of the miniature image to be displayed, news ID or mail ID (Step S15), and transfers the display information to the display controller 104. The display controller 104 displays the display information on the display screen of the display device 103 as shown in FIG. 11 (Step S16). Further, when the user selects the miniature image displayed as in FIG. 11 by clicking, for example, the main controller 101 of the client apparatus 100 judges which is the selected miniature image and transmits the news ID or mail ID corresponding to the selected miniature image to the server apparatus 200. The main controller 201 of the server apparatus 200 refers to the news information DB 208 or mail information DB 209 to fetch the news or mail corresponding to the selected miniature image from the news server 202 or the mail server 203 and transmit the fetched news or mail to the client apparatus 100 (see Figures 10-11, col 5 line 51 to col 6 line 4). Hence, Kii teaches that a writer illustrates a drawing that corresponds to the content of the message.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kii as modified by Taylor and further in view of Kelly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,498,987, from hereinafter "Kelly"). The teachings of Kii as modified by Taylor have been discussed above.

Kii/Taylor fails to specifically disclose an e-mail sender which sends an e-mail representing the message creator to a member.

Kelly teaches a system and method for providing personalized weather reports. Kelly discloses The present invention provides a system and method for generating weather reports and the like which are precisely computed automatically for a particular individual user's geographic location, e.g., home or work, and which are provided automatically directly to the individual user. The present invention may also provide personalized advanced notice to a user when forecast weather conditions meet a user definable weather condition profile for outdoor activities of interest to the user. In accordance with the present invention, a user establishes an individualized user profile in which the user defines a particular location of interest (e.g., home or work), a contact address (e.g., e-mail address or pager number) to which the personalized weather report is to be delivered, and, optionally, a personalized activity weather condition profile, establishing a preferred weather condition profile for activities of interest. A detailed and accurate weather forecasting model is run to provide high geographical and temporal resolution forecast data. This high resolution forecast data is compared to the individual user profile and a personalized weather report for the particular location, times, and conditions of interest to the individual is provided directly to the individual,

e.g., via e-mail. The generation of individual personalized weather reports from pre-established user profile information and model forecast data may be generated and delivered automatically, without human intervention, e.g., each time the forecast model is run (see col 3 line 52 to col 4 line 11). Hence Kelly teaches the use of e-mail to send personalized messages.

In view of the teaching of Kelly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ an e-mail sender because e-mail is an efficient, cost-effective, and secure way to present information to a user so that they can view the message in it's entirety at their convenience. It is favorable to modify the system of Kii/Taylor in this way because both systems exist to cater to the interests of the user of the service.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lisa M. Caputo** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-8505**. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 8:30AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308-7722, (703)308-7724, or (703)308-7382. Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to **[lisa.caputo@uspto.gov]**. *All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.* Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

LMC
March 22, 2003


MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800